



# SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP GEORGIA BOARD OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE AND SECURITY AGENCIES

Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217  
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## Update from the Director

*Randy Vaughn*

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State.

## About the Board

The Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies consists of seven members: two private detectives, two private security businessmen, two state, county or municipal law enforcement officers and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed. The Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies was created for the purpose of safeguarding the citizens of this state by regulation of the private detective and security businesses. The regulation of such business is declared to be in the public interest.

Private detective businesses and private security companies are required to have a company license issued by the Board. The private detective employee, armed or unarmed, must be registered as an employee with the private detective company. Armed security guards must also be registered with a security company. Unarmed security guards are not required to be registered but must have completed the minimum number of training requirements set by board rule. The Board also licenses training instructors to regulate all training requirements for licensure, registration, and weapon permits required by the law.

Concealed and exposed weapon permits are issued only upon a complete employee application submitted by the company. The company certifies that the employee has met the training requirements of the law and rules.

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This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

## 2010 Meeting Dates

May 27, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
 July 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
 September 30, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
 December 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective)

## Board Members and Staff

John Villines, Chairman  
 Chief Woodrow W. Blue, Jr.  
 Vernon Keenan  
 James "Tripp" Mitchell  
 Robert F. Warner  
 Glade Johnson

Steve Lindsey  
 Executive Director  
 Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies

## Active Licensees

Company – Private Detective: 571  
 Company – Security: 312  
 Company – Private Detective/Security: 138  
 Company – In-House Security: 15  
 Employee – Private Detective: 1,434  
 Employee – Private Detect/Security Guard: 232  
 Employee – Security Guard: 2,423  
 Employee – In-House Private Detective: 18  
 Employee – In-House Armed Security: 211  
 Instructor – Classroom Training: 197  
 Instructor – Firearms Training: 22  
 Instructor – Classroom/Firearm Training: 238

## Expiration Dates

Company, In-House Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Company, Private Detective: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Company, Private Detective / Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Company, Security: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Instructor, Classroom Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Instructor, Classroom / Firearm Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Instructor, Firearms Training: June 30 of odd numbered years  
 Employee, In-House Armed Security: August 31 of odd numbered years  
 Employee, In-House Private Detective: August 31 of odd numbered years  
 Employee, Private Detective / Security Guard: August 31 of odd numbered years  
 Employee, Private Detective: August 31 of odd numbered years  
 Employee, Security Guard: August 31 of odd numbered years

**"It is illegal to practice as a private detective or private security officer with an expired license."**

## Actions Taken by the Board

**January:** The Board voted to approve five private detective company licenses, two private security company licenses, three private detective and security company licenses, one classroom training instructor license, two private detective employee licenses, and five security guard employee licenses.

The Board voted to reinstate one in-house security company license and one private security company license.

The Board voted to approve five private detective company applicants to sit for the exam, five private security company applicants to sit for the exam, and two private detective and security company applicants to sit for the exam.

The Board accepted a consent order on the following applicant for licensure:

- Merry and Associates Solutions, Inc., Dawsonville; Jeffery E. Merry, Jr., Cumming: Provides for licensure with 24 months probation and \$500 fine due to unlicensed practice.

The Board accepted a consent order on the following licensee:

- CDP Event Services, Inc., Douglasville: \$500 fine to be paid within 60 days; 60 days to submit written proof that all security employees have completed Board required training administered by a Board certified instructor.

The Board voted to lift the probation status for the following licensee:

- All America Investigations, LLC, Kennesaw

The Board elected the following new officers:

- John Villines, Cleveland: Chairperson
- Glade Johnson, Atlanta: Vice Chairman

**March:** The Board voted to continue the following case:

- Tommy L. Cox, M.I.B. International, Inc., Decatur

The Board approved six private detective company licenses, seven private security company licenses, one private detective and security company license, eight classroom training instructor licenses, one firearms training instructor license, five classroom and training instructor licenses, and one security guard with an exposed and concealed weapon employee license.

## License Renewal Process

### How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

**Disciplinary Issues:**

The Board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/detective).

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies website.

*Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-38-11 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies website.*

## Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service to regulate the licensing and practice of funeral services. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-18 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

**Complaint Form:**

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

**Investigations:**

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies to regulate the licensing and practice of private detectives and security agents. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-38 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

**Notification Process:**

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.